

Sermon Discussion Guide Jesus is Making a People - Hannah Dreblow January 28th, 2024

Hi Small Group Leaders! Thank you for faithfully facilitating your group's gathering. You are living out following Jesus together and we are grateful for you.

As we learn about community, there are several levels of belonging. The levels can be described as intimate, personal, social, and public. A balance of these relationships is essential to a wholesome sense of community and connection. This week's guide will include the option for "micro-groups." Feeling known more deeply by a few people is important and allows a space for each person to share. If desired, divide into groups of 3-5 folks to share and pray together after the "took" section.

Hook - Getting to know one another

If the group needs an icebreaker, feel free to begin with questions one or two, or jump into question three for more time to discuss the series and pray together!

- 1. What's your favorite way to eat potatoes?
- 2. What are three things about today that you are grateful for?
- 3. Share an experience from when you have been a part of a team, club, or specific group. What did that look like? How was that experience for you?

Book - Scripture

 Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand what the text is saying:

Read: 1 Peter 2:10 and Ephesians 2:14-22

- In these texts, what do you see as evidence of God's intentions for his saved people? *Think of his design, purpose, etc.*
- In what ways are God's people distinct?
- Peter is writing to a group of gentile Christians who have been exiled and scattered across Roman provinces (1 Pet 1:1). Commentaries note this was a social ostracization of the Christitans rather than a political exile.

 Why do you think Peter reminds the exiles of their new identity?



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Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- In her teaching Hannah shared that "it's in relationships that we are formed and forged," why do you think that is?
- In a general sense, how do our identities impact our behavior? How does the identity as God's people impact us?
- Why do you think that some of the worst hurt comes from when kingdom community has been done wrong? How do we reconcile this with God's desire for us to be in community when we are not yet a fully formed or a fully restored people?
- As our culture emphasizes personal growth as an individual journey, how does this compare to how we are called to follow Jesus in community?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- In her teaching, Hannah quoted Robert Mullholland, stating that the very purpose of individual sanctification or becoming Christ-like, is always for the sake of other people. Do you agree with this? What are your thoughts?
- What does it mean to practically be a part of a people, specifically, God's family? In the day-to-day, the mundane, with neighbors, strangers, other people at church.
- As you have drawn closer to God have you noticed yourself drawn more into community? If not, describe your hesitations to embracing community?



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Time of Prayer

If you choose to move into micro-groups during this time, use the following question to guide your time together. Share and pray. :)

How would you describe your relationship with God right now?